



PCU Virginia (SSN 774)

Commander Naval Submarine Forces

Commander, Submarine Force U.S. Atlantic Fleet

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CAPT. DAVID J. KERN UNITED STATES NAVY

Captain David Kern earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the United States Naval Academy and was commissioned in May 1981.

Upon completion of nuclear power training and Naval Submarine School, he reported to USS HONOLULU (SSN 718), homeported in Norfolk, Virginia. He supported deployed ships in the Mediterranean and served as Chemistry and Radiological Assistant and Communicator until the ship was delivered to the Pacific Fleet in 1986. Captain Kern then reported to the Naval Postgraduate School at Monterey, California and earned a Master's degree in national security affairs.

Captain Kern served as Combat Systems Officer on USS NEWPORT NEWS (SSN 750) and in 1990 received the Stephen Decatur Award for Operational Excellence from the United States Naval League. In 1990, he reported aboard USS CINCINNATI (SSN 693) as Engineer Officer and deployed to the North Atlantic. In 1992, Captain Kern served as a junior member on the Nuclear Propulsion Examining Board on the staff of the Commander in Chief, U. S. Atlantic Fleet.

Captain Kern reported as Executive Officer on USS NEBRASKA (GOLD) (SSBN 739) in 1995 and conducted four strategic deterrent patrols. During his tour, NEBRASKA's crew earned the Submarine Squadron TWENTY Battle "E" Award, the United States Strategic Command's Omaha Trophy, and a Meritorious Unit Commendation. In 1997, Captain Kern was assigned to the Chief of Naval Operations Staff in the Directorate for Submarine Warfare.

In June 1999, Captain Kern took command of USS SAN FRANCISCO (SSN 711), homeported in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Under his leadership, SAN FRANCISCO was awarded a Secretary of the Navy Letter of Commendation, two consecutive Fleet Golden Anchor Awards, and completed an Engineered Refueling Overhaul three months ahead of schedule.

Captain Kern assumed command of Pre-Commissioning Unit (PCU) VIRGINIA in August 2002.

Sic Semper Tyrannis

The submarine Virginia (SSN 774) is the sixth US vessel to bear the name of the first English colony and the 10th American state.

The first ship named Virginia was commissioned in the spring of 1777 and put into service as a blockade runner. Unfortunately, she was captured and renamed HMS Virginia.

The second Virginia was a schooner commissioned on June 25, 1798. In the West Indies, she captured French schooner Jenny. She was decommissioned in June of 1799.

The next Virginia was a captured Confederate blockade runner, commissioned into the Union Navy on June 12, 1863. She made many captures as a blockade ship until she was sold on November 30, 1865.

The fourth USS Virginia (BB 13) was commissioned on May 7, 1906. She toured the world with the Great White Fleet. After World War I, she was decommissioned and blown up for target practice.

The most recent USS Virginia (CGN 38) was commissioned on September 11, 1976. She was the first cruiser to carry Tomahawk missiles, and used them in Operation Desert Storm. She was decommissioned on November 10, 1994.

Facts and Figures

- **Builders:** Newport News Shipbuilding Co.; General Dynamics Electric Boat Division
- **Powerplant:** One nuclear reactor, one propeller
- **Length:** 377 feet (109.73 meters)
- **Beam:** 34 feet (10.06 meters)
- **Displacement:** Approx. 6,950 tons surfaced, 7,800 tons submerged
- **Speed:** 25+ knots
- **Crew:** 113
- **Armament:** Tomahawk cruise missiles, VLS tubes (719 and later), MK48 torpedoes, four torpedo tubes